

Local Solid Waste Management Reporting and Planning Guidance

2016 Annual Progress Report

Introduction

The Solid Waste Management Act of 1991 states that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)¹ "shall make available on its website, by January 1 of each year, the forms and information to be used by the regions to file an Annual Progress Report (APR)." It also states that "each region shall submit the annual report to the commissioner by March 31 for the immediately preceding calendar year...which will include data on the following: collection, recycling, transportation, disposal, public costs, and any other information that the board, by rule, deems relevant to solid waste planning and management."² Furthermore, regions are also required to submit an APR on the implementation of their approved Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Regional Plans in conjunction with the annual report.³

Ultimately, each MSW Region is responsible for all waste streams and how they are managed in the region. County control and responsibility of specific waste streams and proportions are defined by the region's Solid Waste Plan and approved by the region's Solid Waste Board. If municipalities operate solid waste systems, they are responsible for waste in their jurisdiction; otherwise, the county is responsible.

Under the recently released TDEC 2015 - 2025 Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan (the State Plan)⁴, TDEC considers all municipal and county governments that operate solid waste systems in their jurisdictions critical partners for implementation. In fact, the State Plan is intended to provide local governments with various strategies and tactics that can be evaluated for adoption and implementation in their respective jurisdictions. TDEC assumes many of these strategies and tactics will be incorporated into Solid Waste Regional Plans. Currently, TDEC assists local governments within the regions with infrastructure development and technical assistance. Please check http://tn.gov/environment/topic/sw- mm-materials-management-program for additional resources.

This guidance document is intended to assist regions in further understanding the importance of reporting, the reporting requirements, and the current reporting process. TDEC is available to provide technical assistance during the Tennessee annual reporting process. Please contact the TDEC staff member assigned to your county as indicated in the following APR territory contact map.

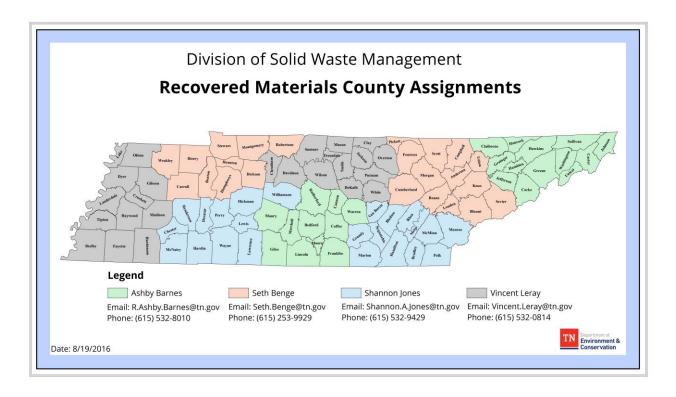
¹ The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) is Tennessee's state environmental regulatory agency with delegated authority to implement programs under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, federal law pertaining to the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes and management of non-hazardous solid wastes.

T.C.A. § 68-211-871.

³ *Id*.

⁴ The 2015 – 2025 Solid Waste and Material Management Plan can be accessed at http://tn.gov/environment/topic/sw-2015-2025solid-waste-and-materials-management-plan.

Annual Progress Report Territory Contacts



Definitions for Common Solid Waste Management Terms 5

The definitions below apply to this year's reporting process. Please note that definitional changes may occur in subsequent years under implementation of the State Plan. If you have a question regarding the meaning of a term not listed here or how to interpret a term used in the reporting process, please contact your APR Territory Contact.

- I. Landfill: a facility where solid wastes are disposed of by burial in excavated pits or trenches or by placement on land and covering with soil or other approved material
- II. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW): any garbage, refuse, industrial lunchroom or office waste, household waste, household hazardous waste, yard waste, and any other material resulting from the operation of residential, municipal, commercial or institutional establishments and from community activities; provided, that "municipal solid waste" does not include the following:
 - a. Radioactive
 - b. Hazardous waste as defined in 68-212-104;
 - c. Infectious waste;

⁵ As defined in T.C.A. § 68-211-802 unless otherwise noted.

- d. Materials that are being transported to a facility for reprocessing or reuse; provided further, that reprocessing or reuse does not include incineration or placement in a landfill; and
- e. Industrial waste which may include office, domestic or cafeteria waste, managed in a privately owned solid waste disposal system or resource recovery facility, if such waste is generated solely by the owner of the solid waste disposal system or resource recovery facility
- III. Recovered materials: those materials which have been diverted or removed from the solid waste stream for sale, use, reuse or recycling, whether or not requiring subsequent separation processing. Such recovered materials are not solid waste
- IV. Recycling: the process by which recovered materials are transformed into new products, including the collection, separation, processing, and reuse of recovered materials either directly or as raw materials for the manufacture of new products
- V. Reuse: Reusing an item in its current state⁶
- VI. Solid waste: garbage, trash, refuse, abandoned material, spent material, byproducts, scrap, ash, sludge, and all discarded material including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, and agricultural operations, and from community activities. Solid waste includes, without limitation, recyclable material when it is discarded or when it is used in a manner constituting disposal⁷
- VII. Solid waste disposal: the process of permanently or indefinitely placing, confining, compacting, or covering solid waste⁸
- VIII. Source reduction (also referred to as waste prevention): reducing waste so it is not generated in the first place⁹
- IX. Waste diversion: The prevention and reduction of generated waste through source reduction, recycling, reuse, or composting (In some states diversion includes waste processed at waste-to-energy facilities)¹⁰

Why Local Solid Waste Management Reporting Matters

The 1991 Solid Waste Management Plan identified the following solid waste issues: uncertainty regarding solid waste capacity, lack of a materials management approach (including lack of capacity in recycling collection and processing), inadequate garbage collection infrastructure, and lack of information about the cost of solid waste management. Reporting has played and will continue to play a key role in addressing all of these issues. Reporting allows TDEC to: assess how regional plans tie into the State Plan; better understand how regions are implementing their plans; determine which regions are meeting

⁹ TDEC 2015 - 2025 Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan, April 2015, P. 59.

⁶ TDEC 2015 - 2025 Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan, April 2015, P. 59.

⁷ As defined in T.C.A. § 68-211-103.

⁸ Id

¹⁰ *Id*.

¹¹ *Id.* at 5.

established goals; understand why regions may not be meeting current goals; better set goals and expectations; and consider changes in waste management costs and waste capacity needs.

However, reporting also plays an important role for regions for the following reasons:

- 1. <u>Planning</u>: The APR not only serves as an update for progress, but can be used as a tool to support a number of different types future planning efforts. Regions should consider their solid waste management efforts in a way that allows for the implementation of long term strategic planning initiatives. By reviewing the APRs and analyzing needs and trends, regions can develop initiatives to best address needs, implement strategies, comply with set goals, evaluate the adoption of more challenging regional goals, and align solid waste management with other strategic priority areas in their communities.
- 2. <u>Grant applications</u>: The Solid Waste Management Act of 1991 allows TDEC to award matching grants for assistance with establishing or upgrading convenience centers, ¹² recycling collection site equipment, ¹³ and promoting new technologies ¹⁴ as well as competitive grants for the collection of household hazardous waste. ¹⁵ By reviewing the APRs, regions can assess their individual needs and save the necessary funds to match their desired grants. The collected data gives regions the opportunity to better prepare for future needs and fill in existing program gaps via matching and competitive grants. Having access to current waste management data can also streamline the grant application process.
- 3. <u>Tracking progress</u>: Regions can use the information provided in the APR to track their progress in completing strategies and meeting set goals. The data can also be used to assess opportunities for improvement. By reviewing the APRs, regions can view trends in performance and progress towards established goals, and identify solid waste management priority areas in the future.

By submitting and analyzing their annual progress reports, regions can assess the progress they have made and also better plan for the future of their programs. It is important to note that the APR and the reporting process described within this document is reflective of reporting that regions are required to submit to the State of Tennessee. However, the APR and associated tools may be used by regions, counties, and others to assist with tracking progress towards local waste management and recycling goals.

¹² T.C.A. § 68-211-824.

¹³ T.C.A. § 68-211-825.

¹⁴ T.C.A. § 68-211-830.

¹⁵ T.C.A. § 68-211-828.

Overview of Annual Reporting Requirements

As previously stated, regions are required to file an APR containing data on waste management collection, recycling, transportation, disposal, and public costs. 16 The APR serves as yearly update on the implementation of each regions required MSW plan. Therefore, TDEC requires that the following information be included in the APR:

- 1. Demographic information;
- 2. A current analysis of:
 - a. Waste streams, including data concerning types and amounts generated;
 - b. Collection capability, including data detailing the different types of collection systems and the populations and areas which receive and do not receive such services;
 - c. Disposal capability, including an analysis of the remaining life expectancy of landfills or other disposal facilities;
 - d. Costs, including costs of collection, disposal, maintenance, contracts and other costs;
 - e. Revenues, including cost reimbursement fees, appropriations and other revenue sources;
- 3. Anticipated growth trends;
- 4. Anticipated waste capacity needs;
- 5. Planned capacity assurance, including descriptions of planned or needed facilities;
- 6. A description of current public and private recycling efforts and planned efforts to enhance recycling within the county or region and attain the required goal;
- 7. A plan for the disposal of household hazardous wastes;
- 8. A description of education initiatives aimed at businesses, industries, schools, citizens and others, which addresses recycling, waste reduction, collection and other goals of this part;
- 9. A timetable for implementation of the plan.¹⁷

All of the required information can be submitted by properly answering each question included in the APR. A specific response to each required component is important because it helps TDEC determine what information is being incorporated into the reported numbers, how regions are implementing their plans, and why some regions may not be meeting the statewide set goals. Furthermore, the required information is important for regions because it helps them to identify strategies towards achieving set goals, assess progress, and identify future regional needs as well as plan for ways to gain the resources necessary to accommodating those needs.

Overview of the Reporting Process

Like many other states, Tennessee uses Re-TRAC Connect, a web based service that does not require specialized software to be installed on the user's computer, in order to request and collect data for annual reports. This service simplifies the process of submitting data for the APR and allows users to

¹⁶ T.C.A. § 68-211-871.

¹⁷ T.C.A. § 68-211-815.

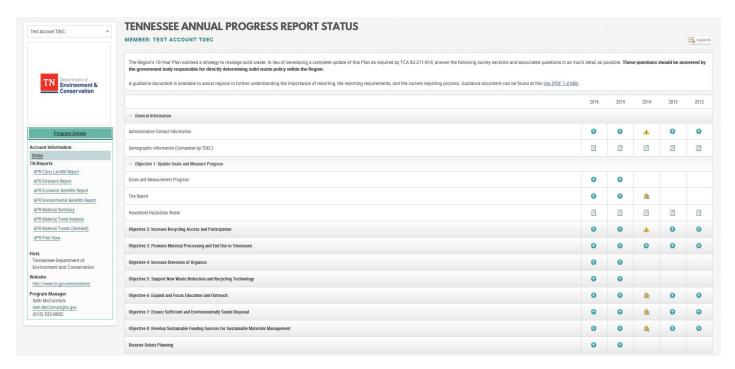
readily generate charts and graphs and create customized reports so they can monitor program and trends.

NOTE: The previous version of Re-TRAC, called my Re-TRAC (Classic), is no longer in use and Re-TRAC Connect should be used for all reporting. Also, the order of questions within Re-TRAC Connect has recently been changed to better align MSW region plans with the State Plan.

Once logged in to Re-TRAC Connect and on the Dashboard page, find the county's information under Tennessee Annual Progress Report, and click go. The Dashboard page will look like the image below:



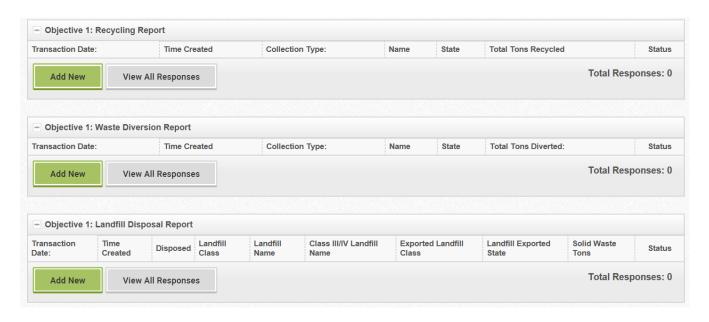
Regions will be able to enter their annual reporting information under the eight (8) titled objective areas. Please note the "General Information" section and the "Objective 1" section both have drop down menus, indicated by a plus (+), for tabs that include additional information. Click the blue (+) to access and enter the required information. The reporting page will look like the image below:



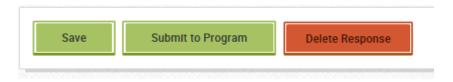
Near the bottom of the Tennessee Annual Progress Report Status page, the Objective 1: Recycling Report, Objective 1: Waste Diversion Report, and Objective 1: Landfill Disposal Report tabs are available for regions to report their recycling, diversion, and landfill disposal information. The "add new" icon creates a new page for numerical data entry. Use the "add new" icon to add as many recycling, diversion, and disposal reports as needed.

The Objective 1: Recycling Report and Objective 1: Waste Diversion Report are critical components of the APR. Note that the Recycling and Diversion Survey serves as a supplemental report that allows county run recycling and diversion programs as well as business and industry recycling and diversion efforts to be reported and considered towards the statewide 25% waste reduction and diversion goal. This information is crucial for measuring progress towards achieving statewide waste reduction and diversion goals and, therefore, it is important to record the data accurately in the correct report under the correct section.

DSWM has provided a separate cover letter template¹⁹ and Recycling and Diversion Survey²⁰ to assist in the collection of this information. To use the template, county specific information should be entered in the appropriate areas indicated in red font. The recycling and diversion survey and cover letter should be customized and sent by the APR author or solid waste board chair to local governments, businesses, and/or industries. The information received should then be entered by the APR author into Re-TRAC Connect. The reporting page will look like the image below:



At the bottom of each report there will be three options to select:



• Save: This option allows the user to save the document for future editing.

¹⁸ See Attachments I and II.

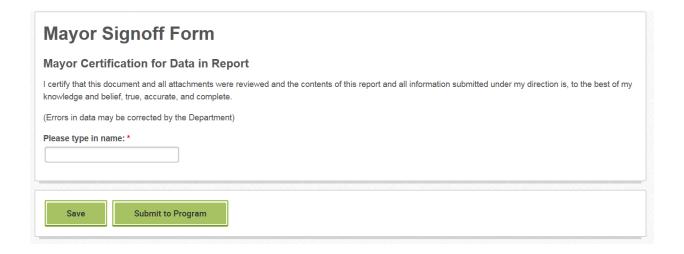
¹⁹ Attachment I.

²⁰ Attachment II.

- **Submit to Program**: This option allows the user to submit the APR data to TDEC. This must be done for each report and once submitted the data cannot be edited by the user. The user must contact TDEC to unlock the report.
- **Delete Response**: this option allows the user to delete all information in the current report and start over. The option will only show, if there is saved data in the current report.

Overview of Mayor and Solid Waste Board Chair Signatures

The APR has three main components to be completed by March 31 of each year. The first is the submission of the APR plan update narratives, recycling, diversion, and disposal reports. The second and third are the county executive/mayor and solid waste board chair signatures. Only the county executive/mayor and solid waste board chair has access to their respective signature pages. The signature sign-off page will look like the images below and can be accessed from the Dashboard page like the APR instructions above:



Board Chair Signoff Form Board Chair Certification for Data in Report I certify, under penalty of law, including but not limited to penalties for perjury, that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision; that I have reviewed the contents of this report; that all of the submitted information is to the best of my knowledge and belief true, accurate, and complete, and I understand that the penalties for providing false information and making false or fraudulent statements or representations include revocation of my permit or license, civil penalties, and/or criminal prosecution resulting in a fine, imprisonment, or both. Date of Solid Waste Board Meeting where report was approved: * Voting Board members present: * Voted Aye: * Voted Aye: * Voted Ays: * Voted Abstain: * Please type in name: *

Board Chair Certification for Modifications to Regional Plan	
I certify, under penalty of law, including but not limited to penalties for perjury, that the Regional Solid Waste Board has reviewed the contents of this report in a meeting for which proper notice was given under the Tennessee Sunshine Law, T.C.A. §8-44-101 et seq.; that it is understood that this submission modifies the existing plan and that anything not specifically changed is considered to continue it as stated in the previous version of the plan; that modified, deleted or added items have been done so purposefully and become a part of the effective Municipal Solid Waste Plan for	
Region Name: *	
Region; and that under Tennessee law, such changes cannot be reversed or modified without the County and the Regional Solid Waste Board acting to change the plan.	
(Errors in data may be corrected by the Department)	
Date of Solid Waste Board Meeting where report was approved: *	
31	
Voting Board members present:*	
	_
Voted Aye: *	
Voted Nay: *	
Voted Abstain: *	
Please type in name: *	
гівазе ізре ін наше.	
	XXXXX
Save Submit to Program	

Frequently Asked Questions

• I forgot my username and/or password.

- For your username, contact a TDEC representative in your territory.
- For your password, please use the "forgot password" function below the log in button for your registered email. An email will be sent to your registered email with instructions to create a new password. Check spam if you do not see the email in your inbox.



My browser does not display all the information correctly.

- You may be trying to access Re-TRAC with a browser that is out-of-date or not supported. Re-TRAC Connect is compatible with Internet Explorer 9-11, latest version of Chrome and Firefox.
- If an updated browser does not fix your problem, please contact the TDEC staff member assigned to your county as indicated in the APR territory contact map.

Can multiple users access the same account?

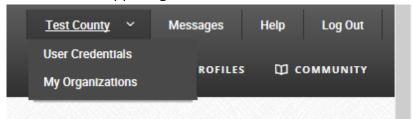
 Yes, please contact the TDEC staff member assigned to your county as indicated in the following APR territory contact map to setup multi-user privileges.

• How do I access the website?

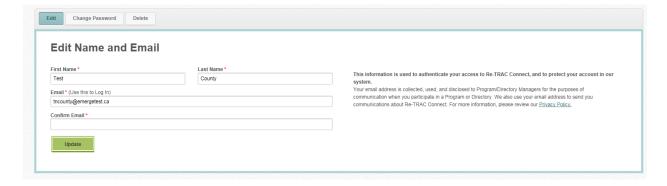
• The website can be found at https://connect.re-trac.com/login. Use correct username and password to access the APR.

• How do I change my username or password information?

Log in normally with your current username and password. Once on the dashboard, locate
and click your name in the upper right hand corner.



 Select user credentials to access current author name, user email and password. Change appropriate fields and then click update.



Will there be follow-up questions when the state reviews the document?

Yes, TDEC reviews the plan update, recycling, diversion and disposal tonnages until August.
 During this time TDEC may request additional information and verify reported tonnages.

• When will I find out if the 25% waste reduction and diversion goal was achieved by my region?

 TDEC will send APR approval letters in August. The letter will indicate your current waste reduction and diversion goal percentage. TDEC will send a different letter if the Region failed to meet the goal discussing the next steps for qualitative assessment.

• How will the state use this information?

- TDEC will use this information for statewide planning. Statewide planning includes review of statewide needs and infrastructure requirements that will help TDEC create technical assistance tools, grant applications and workshops.
- TDEC will use this information in the annual report to the governor and general assembly,²¹
 information requests, presentations and EPA's state data measurement sharing program.

Can I access my information year around?

 Yes, historical data can be accessed 24/7 when internet connection is available. Also, TDEC can provide historical information upon request.

What items are required for the APR to be completed by March 31?

- There are three items needed for the APR to be recognized as completed by TDEC.
 - The report author of the APR must submit the plan update narrative fields, recycling, diversion, and disposal reports.
 - The solid waste board must review and approve the submitted APR.
 - The county executive/mayor must review and approve the submitted APR.

12

²¹ T.C.A. § 68-211-873.

• What if the Region does not submit all the required information by March 31?

- Failure to submit an adequate plan update can lead to sanctions and penalties. If a municipal solid waste region fails to submit an adequate plan in a timely fashion or if the commissioner does not approve any plan submitted to it, or for any other noncompliance with a provision of this part, then the commissioner shall impose the following sanctions, as appropriate, on the noncompliant county or region:
 - On the first instance of noncompliance, the commissioner shall issue a letter of warning to the noncompliant county or region indicating the reasons for noncompliance, setting forth the sequence of graduated sanctions for noncompliance and offering technical assistance to remedy the causes of noncompliance.
 - Any noncompliance shall be resolved as soon as possible. If noncompliance
 continues for thirty (30) days after receipt of the warning letter, the
 noncomplying county or region shall lose eligibility for funds from the solid
 waste management fund, unless the commissioner states in writing that, due to
 particular circumstances, a longer time is appropriate.
 - If noncompliance continues for sixty (60) days after receipt of the warning letter, then, in addition to any other penalty imposed by law, the commissioner may impose a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each day of noncompliance beyond the sixty-day period.²²

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²² T.C.A. § 68-211-816.

Attachment I

INSERT COUNTY LETTERHEAD

Date

Dear contact name of local government/business/industry,

County name County is preparing the 2015 Annual Progress Report (APR) to the state to report efforts toward meeting the 25% waste reduction and diversion goal. All local governments, businesses and industry actively engaged in the recovery or recycling of materials are encouraged to contribute their 2015 waste reduction and diversion efforts and be included in the measurement toward achieving the goal. Enclosed/Attached is a Recycling and Diversion Survey that can easily be completed and submitted for inclusion in the APR.

Inclusion in the APR may benefit local business or industry through improved end markets for recovered materials, identification of needed infrastructure to better manage materials being generated, and increased opportunities for materials exchanges with other industries that needing feedstock. The county will benefit toward achieving the 25% waste reduction and diversion goal, by demonstrating a need for collection or processing infrastructure, and by identifying opportunities for improved marketing or diversion.

Please submit the completed Recycling and Diversion Survey by **day of the week, date** to ensure inclusion in the APR. Proprietary information may be submitted directly to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and compiled and reported in cumulative statewide totals, by type of recovered material [T.C.A. § 68-211-871(e)]. Contact the Division of Solid Waste Management for more details:

Ashby Barnes at (615) 532-8010 or at <u>R.Ashby.Barnes@tn.gov</u> or Seth McCormick at (615) 532-0082 or at <u>Seth.McCormick@tn.gov</u>.

If you have any other questions regarding the form or need clarification you may contact Local Contact Name at phone number or by email at email address. Thank you for your efforts toward helping county name County and the state achieve their waste reduction and diversion goals.

Sincerely, Name Title, Organization

Attachment II

INSERT COUNTY NAME

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE REGION

RECYCLING & DIVERSION SURVEY

The Recycling & Diversion Survey is to be completed by all collectors or primary collection point recyclers. Processors and end-users are exempt from having to complete this report. The survey should be completed early enough to allow the Annual Progress Report (APR) to be reviewed, approved by the solid waste board for the region and submitted to the Tennessee Department of Environment prior to March 31 of the year immediately following the reporting year.

Should the Region have difficulty collecting the information the statute allows the Region to compel those actively engaged in the collection, transportation, and/or disposal of solid waste to provide the necessary information [T.C.A. § 68-211-871(c) and (d)].²³ If you do not wish to submit your information to the Region, you may submit it directly to TDEC.²⁴ Such information shall be treated as proprietary information but may be complied and reported in cumulative statewide totals, by type of recovered material.²⁵ Such information shall not be released to the public in such a manner as to identify it with an individual recovered materials processing facility.²⁶

All weights are to be reported in tons.

County of Origin:						
Name:	Contact:		Phone:			
Address :	Email:		Fax:			
Select the type of recycling or diversion:						
Residential (Curbside, Drop-off, Public)		Commercial (Retail, Office)				
Institutional (Schools, Hospitals)		Industrial (Manufacturing Sector)				
Special Events (Festivals, annual activities)		Other				
	Please specify:					
		<u> </u>				

²³ T.C.A. § 68-211-871(c) and (d)

²⁴ T.C.A. § 68-211-871(e).

²⁵ *Id*.

²⁶ Id.

Recycling Survey:

Recycling: Means the process by which recovered materials are transformed into new products, including the collection, separation, processing, and reuse of recovered materials either directly or as raw materials for the manufacture of new products.

Commodity	Weight (in tons)	Average Sale Price Per Ton	
		(not required)	
Metals			
Steel	Tons	\$	
Tin	Tons	\$	
Iron	Tons	\$	
Copper	Tons	\$	
Aluminum Beverage Containers	Tons	\$	
Other Aluminum	Tons	\$	
Bronze & Brass	Tons	\$	
Mixed Metal	Tons	\$	
Auto Body Scrap	Tons	\$	
Oil Filters	Tons	\$	
Fiber			
Sorted Office Paper	Tons	\$	
Mixed Office Paper	Tons	\$	
Old Newsprint Paper	Tons	\$	
Old Corrugated Cardboard	Tons	\$	
All other grades	Tons	\$	
Plastics			
PET	Tons	\$	
HDPE	Tons	\$	
PVC	Tons	\$	
LDPE	Tons	\$	
PP	Tons	\$	
PS	Tons	\$	
Other	Tons	\$	
ABS	Tons	\$	
Mixed 1&2	Tons	\$	
Mixed 3-7	Tons	\$	
Mixed All Plastic	Tons	\$	
Glass (Flint)	Tana	r.	
Clear (Flint)	Tons	\$	
Green	Tons	\$	
Amber Blue	Tons	<u> </u>	
Non-ABC	Tons	<u> </u>	
Mixed Glass	Tons	 \$	
Other Recyclables	Tons	₽	
Latex Paint	Tons	\$	
Textiles	Tons		
Pallets	Tons	 \$	
Electronics	Tons		
Recycled C & D (not landfilled)	Tons		
Lead Acid Batteries	Tons	<u> </u>	
Dry Cell Batteries	Tons	\$	
Automotive Fluids	10115	Ψ	
Used Oil	Tons	\$	
Antifreeze	Tons	\$ \$	
Transmission Fluid	Tons	 \$	
Other	Tons	\$ \$	
Scrap Tires	10115	Ψ	
Scrap Tires	Tons	\$	
Miscellaneous	10115 1	Ψ	
MISCERIANCOUS			

Recycling Survey (continued):

Other (1):	Tons	Specify Other Material
Other (2):	Tons	Specify Other Material
Other (3):	Tons	Specify Other Material

Diversion Survey:

Diversion: Items Diverted away from Class I or III/IV landfills but do not fit the definition of recycling in the previous section. State credit will still be given to this material.

Compost		Industrial Byproducts	
Food Waste	Tons	s Industrial Byproducts	
Bio-Solids	Tons	Alternate Daily Cover	
Green Waste	Tons	Alternate Daily Cover	Tons
Mulch		Construction and Demolition Debris	
Landscape, yard trimmings,	Tons	Construction and Demolition (not	Tons
and agriculture		landfilled, not recycled)	
Sewage		Crushed Glass for roads (not	Tons
		landfilled, not recycled)	
Sewage sludge (land applied)	Tons		
Permanent HHW Facilities			
Permanent HHW Facilities	Tons		